

GENERAL ANAESTHESIA



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DEFINITION

Is a reversible and controlled state of unconsciousness and loss of sensation to pain or surgical stimulus following the administration of anaesthetic agents

EARLY HISTORY



Agents used in Ancient Anaesthetics

- Opium
- Alcohol
- Cannabis

William T.G. Morton's Ether Inhaler



October 17, 1846: First public demonstration of the use of ether in anesthesia at Massachusetts Gen Hosp. with Dr. J.C. Warren in attendance.



Although Warren's account attributed Morton, Dr Crawford Long of Jefferson, Georgia used ether in surgery in 1841

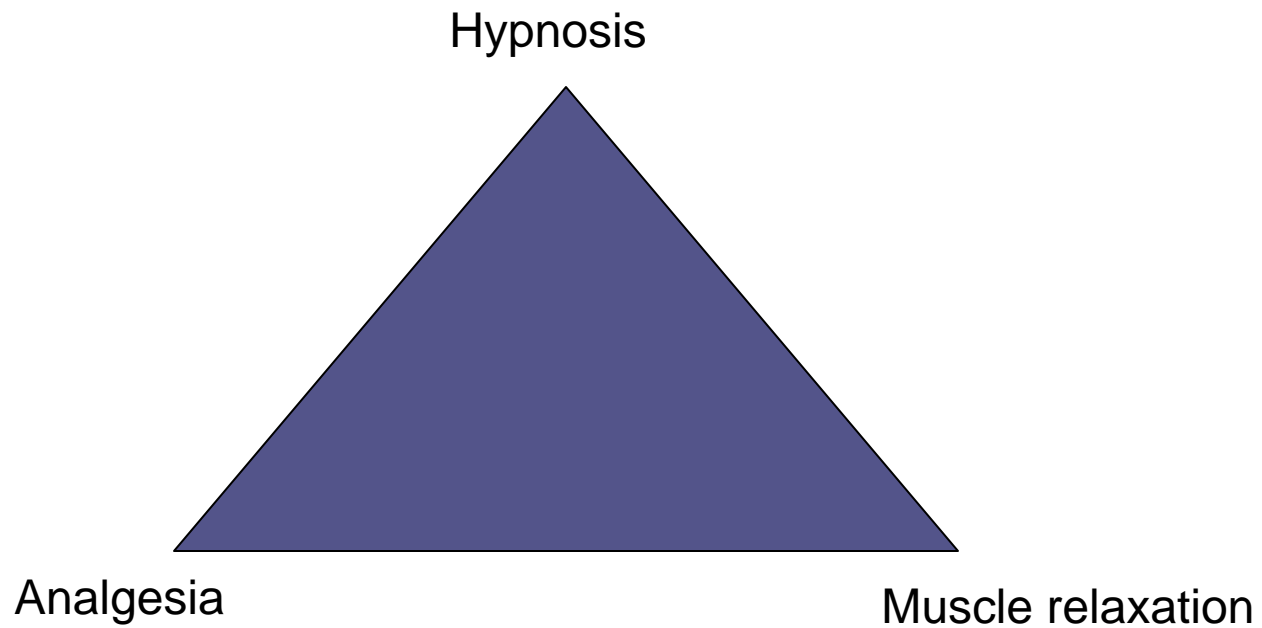
Painting by Robert C. Hinckley, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Boston

Modern Anaesthetics

2 Principal classes

- Inhalational anaesthetics
- Intravenous anaesthetics

Triad of General anaesthesia



Pre anaesthetic assessment

- Medical history
- Current medication
- Previous anaesthetics
- Current physical status
- ASA Classification{1-5}
- Starvation
- State of teeth
- Anatomical problems
- Pathological test/ x-rays
- Informed consent

Anaesthetic Strategies



- Induction
- Maintenance
- Recovery

Induction Agents

Intravenous

- Thiopentone
- Propofol
- Etomidate
- ketamine

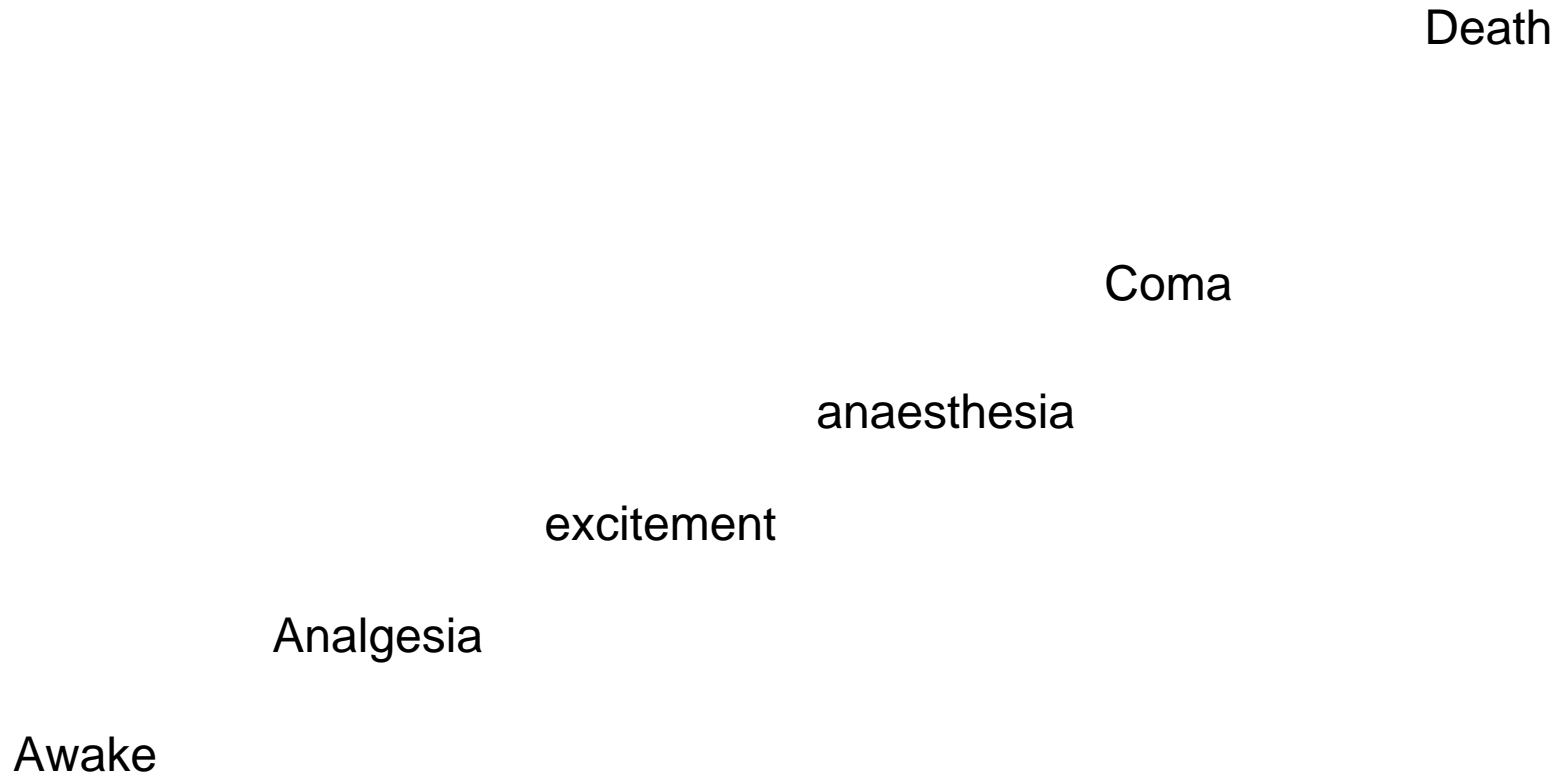
Inhalational

- Sevoflurane
- Isoflurane
- Enflurane
- Desflurane
- Halothane
- Nitrous oxide

Types of Induction

- Awake
- Rapid sequence{crash}
- Inhalational
- Combined IV/ inhalational

Stages of Anaesthesia



Complications

- Perivenous injection
- Intra arterial injection
- Damage to teeth
- Respiratory depression
- aspiration/ regurgitation
- Cardiovascular collapse
- Laryngospasms
- Bronchospasms
- Hypoxia
- Hypothermia
- Nerve injury
- Sore throat
- Laryngeal damage
- Malignant hyperpyrexia
- Nausea/vomiting

References

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- DOH; Good practice in consent implementation guide: consent to examination or treatment; department of health; Nov 2001
- Fox, Andrew J. David J. Rowbotham; “Recent advances in anaesthesia” British Medical Journal 319{Aug 28 1999}: 557-560